

# Terri Taylor and Lucille Lorenzen Scholarship



**Terri Taylor**

Terri Taylor, daughter of Glenda Taylor, was raised in Mankato, Minnesota. Her roots at Minnesota State University Mankato are deep having attended primary school at the former Wilson Campus School, a teaching school for MSU students. Her experience as a child included acting in theatre productions at the University's theater and participating in various teaching courses with University students. At the age of sixteen Terri became a mother and wife and after completing high school viewed college as an "impossible dream". She spent the next five years working in various fast food restaurants and retail stores.

Five years later, divorced and a single mother of two daughters, Terri was at a place in her life where she knew she needed something more. After "trying-out" a freshman level English course at MSU, Terri's dream of college no longer seemed so impossible and she enrolled as a full-time university student. Terri found she excelled in the area of sociology and made Social Work her major. She found that her own life struggles could be used as a foundation to empower and advocate for others. She became involved as a volunteer at the local battered women's shelter and realized her own marriage emulated the relationships of the woman who were staying in the shelter. As she continued her volunteer work she began to develop an understanding about the causes of domestic violence its prevalence in society and culture. Adopting a feminist analysis of the root causes of violence against women lead Terri to the University's Women Studies Department. Terri found the courses in Woman Studies to be invigorating and a challenge to everything she had been taught about the traditional roles of men and women. She more fully developed a belief system that had been dormant within her for many years. Terri graduated in 1985 from MSU with a major in Social Work and a minor in Women's Studies.

Since graduation Terri has dedicated her life journey towards the elimination of violence against women. She has worked in the areas of legal and system's advocacy, community education, group facilitation, management, training, research and development. Terri has served in the capacity of Executive Director for two battered women's shelters, as well as for the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. She has been a constant force in the promotion of public policy that addresses the needs of woman and children in the areas of legal, medical and economic assistance. Currently she manages a technical assistance project for federally funded programs under the Violence Against Woman Act. The project is responsible for designing nationally recognized model practices for services to battered women and children involved in post-separation violence.

Terri currently lives with her partner John and bulldog Bob in Eagan, Minnesota. She is the proud mother of two strong beautiful daughters and one granddaughter. She credits both her mother Glenda and grandmother Lucille as being the positive influences in her life that made her the woman she is today

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